RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 8th May, 1992/18 Vaisakha, 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the Clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Concretisation of 'Neighbourhood School' concept

*161. SHRI SOM PAL :†

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to concretise the "Neighbourhood School" concept to curb charging capitation fees by private schools;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Education Commission (1964-66) and the National Policy on Education, 1986 have recommended that measures should be taken in the direction of the Common School System. The 'Neighbourhod School' concept is one of the steps towards realisation of this goal. Maintenance of good standards in the schools is sought to be achived by making available a broadly uniform scheme of studies and improving physical facilities. The National Policy on Education envisages that as the standards of schools charging modest fees, or charging no fees, improve their standards the urge of parents to send their children to high fee charging, or "capitation fee charging" private schools will go down.

SHRI SOM PAL : Sir, I have really been disappointed with the evasive reply that has been given by this young lady Minister. Actually my original question consisted of four parts. Two parts have been struck down ; I do not know for what reason. The other two have also been restructured according to the choice, I do not know, either of the Secretariat or of the Ministry. Actually my original question had sought a specific reply on whether the Government proposes to implement the concept of 'Neighbourhood School' or not and whether the Government wishes to curb execessive and high-fees being charged by the public schools. This, has been recognised in all the policy statements including the latest committee, the National Education Policy of 1986 as well as the Kothari Commission as an elitist aberration in the field of education, and which is prevalent in all the policies and programmes of this Government. So what concrete steps is the Government taking to curb the high fees and capitation fees charged and to enforce the concept of the Neighbourhood School'? This has not been replied to. The Minister has chosen to depend on the decline in the urge of the parents to send their children to such schools. She has in a very vague fashion said that they are trying to raise the standard of the normal schools run by the Government which are charging moderate fees so that the people's urge to go to public schools is reduced. What do you wish to curb ? Do you want to bring a legislation or enforce the legislation that is already there ? In your statement you have said that these schools depend on the Government for the recognition, for the prime lands which are being allotted to these schools, the curriculum and the Government also incurs certain expenditure through NCERT, for the development of curriculum and all these things. These schools are reaping huge benefits out of all these things (*Interruptions*) This is very important.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Som Pal.

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न कर लीजिए तो अच्छा रहेगा।

SHRI SOM PAL : Therefore, they should be made to bear the social costs of all these developmental work and the expenses incurred by the Government. My first question is whether the Government would like to go ahead with this programme or not. What concrete steps have they envisaged ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the hon. Member has raised so many questions. I will try to reply whatever is possible for me Regarding the 'Neighbourhood School', it is a very good suggestion. What the Kothari Commission has recommended is a long-term growth and it will take some time to implement the schemes. The holistic common schools will have a remarkable achievement because they will cover all the children. Regarding the capitation fees charged by some public schools and private schools, I appreciate the sentiment of the hon. Member. It is true that some private schools and public schools are charging more money from the students. Now the population is increasing day by day and the demands of education are also increasing. Sometimes, the parents themselves want to admit their children in private schools and public schools. They want to pay money voluntarily. Primarily, schooling is the concern of the State Government, and in this case, the Uttar Pradesh administration. They have their own Acts and rules to curb this capitation fees. I would like to request the hon. Member to take up this matter with the state Government. We have also taken up this matter with the State Government and we have given instructions from our Department also. Thus the Government of Uttar Pradesh should enforce their Acts and rules on the private and public schools. From our side also, we are informing the public and private schools that they have some accountability for the social responsibility and that they should share their responsibility to serve the disadvantaged groups, that is, the poor people.

SHRI SOM PAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has become a standard practice to put the blame and the responsibility on the State Government .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: That is a fact.

SHRI SOM PAL : Mrs. Natarajan, I am on a very serious question which concerns everybody. I am on a policy which had been enunciated by your Government in 1986. The concept of 'Neighbourhood School' that has been enshrined is a very important feature of that and the rationale behind it is very sound. It requires an interaction between the weaker sections and the affluent sections. So, my pertinent question is whether this concept has been abandoned for ever or whether you are still serious about it ... (*Interruptions*) ... Just a minute. Sir, she has spoken about the State Governments. But I am talking about the schools which have been recognised by the Central Government where you have the Central curriculum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should ask your question.

SHRI SOM PAL : That is what I am asking, Sir. She has given a policy statement ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : She has given the correct reply.

SHRI SOM PAL : I would like to know whether the Government would implement it. Sir, she has said that it is a long-term one. How long will they take? Already six years have elapsed.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : इतने गुस्से में सवाल मत पूछिए : । ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SOM PAL : Because it is a very important question ... (*Interruptions*) ... It is a matter concerning all ... (*Interruptions*) ... मैं सिर्फ नीति की बात करना चाहता हूं । नीति वक्तव्य तो बहुत हो चुके हैं, नीति कर्त्तव्य भी तो चाहिए ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : इतने तेवर बर्दाश्त करने चाहिएं . . .

श्री सभापति : प्रश्न क्या है, मेरी समझ में नहीं आया ।

SHRI SOM PAL : Sir, the real problem is that the people sitting here just refuse to understand the problem . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . प्राबलम यही है कि प्रश्न समझना नहीं चाहते ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is this the question ? (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI SOM PAL : Yes Sir, this too is the question . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . This is the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are saying that the people sitting here do not understand? On behalf of the whole House, I can say that they understand the problem) . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI SOM PAL : Sir, I would like to know whether the concept of 'Neighbourhood School', is going to be implemented or it is going to be abandoned. What are they doing about it ? Are they doing anything in a concrete form to implement it ? (*Interruptions*) . . . Are they serious about it ? . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Government is very serious about it. The National Commission on Education recommended this in 1964 and the National Policy on Education as said that this idea is a very good idea and the concept is a very good concept and that is why it has been envisaged . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI SOM PAL : Everybody agrees that the concept is good. But I am talking of its implementation . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Education Commission had mentioned that it was a long-term course and that is why we are in a favour of the 'Neighbourhood School'. But it will take some time to establish the Neighbourhood Schools because the Government is in favour of a holistic approach . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel . . . (*Interduptions*) . . .

श्री चिमनभाई मेहता : आप कहते है चिमन भाई पटेल तो टी०वी० वाले भी चिमनभाई पटेल कह देते हैं । मैं चाहूंगा कि इतनी बदनामी तो मत कीजिए ।

श्री सभापति : मुख्य मंत्री हैं . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : मुख्य मंत्री बना रहे है आपको . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, if "Mehta" can be confused with "Patel", then there is something wrong with the person ! . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Sir, a reference has been made to the Education Commission of 1964 and now, more than 30 years have passed by. Still the concept of Neighbourhood School remains very far. I do understand that the young Minister is very serious about it . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . .

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न कर लीजिए तारीफ तो ठीक है . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : But the question is whether there is a will. The whole point comes in here. I say this because till now it has remained a concept only. Yesterday, there was a reference to it in the statement, to the Janardhana Reddy Committee. In Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister has legalised 50 per cent of capitation fees in higher technical and medical education. He was the Chairman of this Committee. Anyway, I do not want to comment on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is about the concept of Neighbourhood Schools.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : I am talking about it only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is about schools, not fees !

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Sir, the Neighbourhood Schools also would come to this because capitation fees is the central point here. Therefore, the question is whether, when you are referring to the policies, you are in a position to give or fix any time-frame because the Common School and Neighbourhood Schools are not identical. First of all, there is also some misunderstanding about the whole system. Within a particular area or areas, where there is a school, the first right of entry is given to a person who resides there. You can avoid the rush of traffic and so many other advantages are there. People need not have to face the traffic problem. Now you are saying that you are very serious. My point is : How serious are you, and would you make a time frame, at least in Delhi ? I am not talking of other States. Delhi is under your jurisdiction. So once you implement it in Delhi itself, all other States are bound to follow, and you can tell them to follow it. Therefore, please give a time frame, when you can do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the question comes about Delhi. What are you going to do to curb capitation fee by private schools? What are you planning ?

कुमारी ममता बनर्जी : हमारी गवर्नमेंट का रूल है . . . (व्यवधान) ।

श्री सभापति : उसके पहले उन्होंने प्रश्न किया था कि आप उनको मुफ्त में सस्ती जमीन देते है, उसको तो रोक ही सकते हैं । उन्होंने बहुत सारे प्रश्न पूछे हैं । आखिरी सवाल तो प्रश्नकर्त्ता का खो गया ।

कुमारी ममता बनर्जी : हमारी गवर्नमेंट की जो पालिसी है उसमें केपिटेशन फी लेना ठीक नहीं है प्रोहिबिशन है । हमारे रूरल एरियाज में . . . (व्यवधान) । दिल्ली का सवाल बाद में आता है ।

श्री सभापति : दिल्ली तो आपके डायरेक्शन में आता है । He has restricted the question only to Delhi. What are you going to do for Delhi ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : By public schools ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes. What are you going to, do about it ? Simple question, simple answer.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Regarding Delhi, it is under Delhi Administration and we will take up this matter with the Delhi Administration. उन्होंने दिल्ली के बारे में पूछा है, लेकिन ओरिजिनल क्वेश्चन तो दिल्ली के बारे में नहीं है । फिर भी

We will take up this matter.

हमारे डिपार्टमेंट की इंस्ट्रक्शन्स हैं कि कोई भी केपिटेशन फी लेना ठीक नहीं है । अगर कोई लेता है तो उसको डिरिकागनाइज कर सकते हैं ।

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Mr. Arjun Singh is not here, I understand. She is doing her best to answer. I have no complaint about her. Let the Minister make a statement.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We will take up this matter.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject of education concerns every hearth and home in India, and if we are interested in building a strong nation and come up with a strong edifice, this is the foundation that will provide proper education, sound education,, to our children. Under the Directive Principles of the Constitution, we have enjoined upon the Government to provide free eduction and we talk of universalisation of education. But in reality there is an anathema or aberration for admissions even for KG. Sir, my question is : will the hon. Minister take up some steps to curb this tendency of malpractice to charge capitation fee or donation ? We could come up

with a law. For example, in Maharashtra, Sir—I would like to cite, an example . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody knows it is happening everywhere. Nowhere an example is needed.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Would the hon. Minister write to the various State Governments, enjoining upon them to enact a law ?

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न कर लीजिये ।

श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन जैन : एक तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या आप ला पास करेंगे और इस तरह से क्या स्टेट्स को बताएंगे ? दूसरा मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि सब को एडमिशन देने की जो कार्यवाही होती है उसमें सब बच्चे एडमिशन पाते नहीं है । यह भी आप देखेंगे कि हर जगह पर और हर साल जो बच्चे एडमिशन और दाखिले के लिए जाते है उनको एडमिशन नहीं मिलता है क्योंकि स्कूल नहीं है । इसलिए क्या आप इसके लिए भी प्राविजन करेंगे ? मेरा "सी" सवाल यह है कि आप 8 परसेंट बजटरी एलोकेशन बजट में करेंगे या नहीं ?

कुमारी ममता बनर्जी : महोदय, मैं पहले लास्ट सवाल से शुरू करती हूं । बजट का एलोकेशन तो प्लानिंग कमीशन और फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री करती है । यह तो हमारे हाथ में नहीं है । हम तो चाहते है कि ज्यादा मिले । We have proposed this to the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry, Sir.

जहां तक कैपिटेशन फी और डोनेशन लेने का सवाल है, इस बारे में मैं पहले ही बता चुकी हूं ।

Charging capitation fee or donations could lead to derecognition of the defaulting schools.

लेकिन सर, यह बात भी है कि अभी हमारी कंट्री में प्राइवेट स्कूल 4.29 परसेंट हैं जो एडिड है । लेकिन हमारे आठवें फाइव ईयर प्लान में एजुकेशन सिस्टम को अच्छा बनाने की योजना है । और बच्चों को स्कूल में एडमिशन के लिए एक किलोमीटर से दूर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा ।

All children should get proper education.

एजुकेशन का स्टेण्डर्ड अच्छा करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट नेशनल पालिसी ऑन एजुकेशन में भी इसके लिए रिकमेंडेशन है ।

श्री सभापति : यह एक-एक किलोमीटर पर स्कूल खोल देगी ।

DR. R. K. PODDAR : Sir, the Government's commitment to the concept of 'neighbourhood school' or 'common school' is a kind of lip service, I should say, because it is apparent that the concept was introduced in 1964 and after 28 years, we are still discussing it as a long-term objective. And that the Government is insincere . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question

DR. R. K. PODDAR : I am coming to that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Eliminate the preface. Come to the pointed question.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Sir, in this year's Budget, the Education Ministry's allocation has been slashed in almost all the heads, except the Navodaya Vidyalaya. On that head, the expenditure has been enhanced. On the head of 'Operation Blackboard, it has been reduced. So, Sir, the point is that if you want to implement the 'common school' or 'neighbourhood school' system, the general school, the common school has to be improved. So, unless you support the ordinary schools, the general schools, how can this be improved ? So, if the Government are sincere, are they going to increase the allocation for the improvement of the ordinary schools or our country only or or for one single school in an district like the Navodaya Vidyalaya?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, the Government's intention is to upgrade

the standard of education. In the Eighth Five-Year Plan, as I told you within one kilometre ....

DR. R. K. PODDAR : I have asked about this year's Budget. Are you going to ....

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Budget is not in my hands. But, about the 'Operation Blackboard', I am stating .....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have passed the Budget.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : .... that up to 1991 ....

DR. R. K. PODDAR : There should be a Supplementary Budget.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If the Member raises it for us, I will be very grateful.

Sir, up to 1991, we have sanctioned Rs. 699 crores for the 'Operation Blackboard'. And we have already started 1.43 lakh schools for 'Operation Blackboard'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 162.

Iron ore deposits in Tamil Nadu

*162. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the high quality iron ore available in Tamil Nadu has been tested for industrial use, if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) what is the quantity of iron ore available in the State as assessed by feasibility reports ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to exploit the iron ore deposits available in that State for industrial porposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The iron ores of Tamil Nadu are not high grade, but low grade magnetite quartzites with an average Fe content ranging between 35—37%. Tests have shown that these ores are amenable for beneficiation and concentration.

(b) In the early 60's, the possibility of using ore from Kanjamalai (Solem District) was investigated in connection with the proposed Salem steel project, and the mineable reserves were estimated at about 75 million tonnes.

The State Government have also carried out exploration for iron ore in some parts of the State. However, no firm estimates to prove recoverable reserves have been reported.

(c) As the ores are if low grade and costs involved in further processing are uneconomical, they have not been exploited for industrial use.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Sir, is it a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government appointed the Dastur & Company to examine this iron ore at Kanjamalai and has the Government got that report ? Sir, the Minister has admited that it is magnetite ore, compared to the other States which have got hematite. The Dastur & Company report has pointed out that this iron ore is amenable for beneficiation. What are the steps taken to utilise this ore, according to the report of the Dastur & Company ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is a fact that the Dastur & Company was appointed when this Salem steel plant was envisaged. And the report had come. Unfortunately, the type of iron ore that is available there was not found to be commercialy viable for use in the integrated steel plants. And only yesterday we got the information that the State Government have recently made some studies on this. And they have given some figures. About 530 million tonnes of iron ore is available. But it is not the type of iron ore that is needed for the integrated steel plants because the Fe content is 35 to 37